

Message Text

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ORIGIN EUR-12

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TO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 309056

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: TGEN, TBIO, PINT, UR, US

SUBJECT: SOVIET PRESS ACCOUNT OF EXPULSION OF U.S.
SCIENTIFIC EXCHANGE

REF: MOSCOW 18029

1. DEPARTMENT HAS BEEN IN TOUCH WITH DAVID ANDERSON, WHO
CONFIRMED THAT HE WAS PARTICIPANT IN 1977 HEW EXCHANGE AND
SUBJECT OF SOVIETSKAYA MOLDAVIA ARTICLE (REFTEL). ANDERSON
PROVIDED FOLLOWING VERSION OF EVENTS CONCERNED:

2. ANDERSON,WHO HAS A PHD IN HIS FIELD AND SPEAKS RUSSIAN
WELL,CONSIDERS HIS OFFICIAL PROGRAM IN MID-SUMMER 77 IN
MOSCOW TO HAVE BEEN VERY SUCCESSFUL. HE DID RESEARCH ON
CARDIOVASCULAR MATTERS UNDER THE US-USSR HEALTH COOPERATION
AGREEMENT, PROBLEM AREA NUMBER ONE. HE GOT ALONG WELL
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WITH HIS SOVIET SCIENTIFIC COLLEAGUES AND WAS ABLE TO DO
PRODUCTIVE WORK WITHOUT INCIDENT.

3. AS REPORTED BY THE EMBASSY, FOLLOWING COMPLETION OF HIS
RESEARCH WORK HE OBTAINED A TOURIST VISA AND RENTED A CAR
TO TOUR THROUGH THE SOUTHERN PART OF EUROPEAN RUSSIA. THE
ONE UNPLEASANT INCIDENT HE RECALLS--AND WHICH HE SUSPECTS

WAS THE BASIS FOR SOVIET IRE--OCCURRED IN ODESSA. HE WAS

STAYING AT A TOURIST CAMP OUTSIDE ODESSA WITH OTHER FOREIGNERS WHOM HE HAD MET BY CHANCE. ON RETURN FROM TOWN ONE EVENING, THE GATE GUARD REFUSED ENTRY TO A GIRL IN THE GROUP WHO HAD LOST OR MISPLACED HER CAMP PASS. ANDERSON INTERCEDED ON HER BEHALF, POINTING OUT THAT HER THINGS WERE IN THE CAMP, SHE HAD NO PLACE ELSE TO GO ETC. HE TRIED TO HELP HER FORCE HER WAY PAST THE GUARD, WITHOUT SUCCESS. EVENTUALLY ANOTHER MEMBER OF THE GROUP CAME UP WITH A SPARE CAMP PASS WHICH THE GIRL USED FOR ENTRY. THE NEXT MORNING ANDERSON WENT TO THE CAMP DIRECTOR, NOT TO COMPLAIN, BUT TO INFORM HER HE WAS LEAVING A DAY EARLY, AND THE CONVERSATION LED TO HIS COMMENTING BRIEFLY ON BAD ASPECTS OF "THE SYSTEM."

4. ANDERSON PROCEEDED TO KISHINEV AND ON THE THIRD DAY (SEPT. 2, 1977) OF HIS STAY AT A HOTEL THERE HE WAS DINING WITH TWO OR THREE MEMBERS OF THE GROUP FROM ODESSA WHO HAD LOOKED HIM UP WHEN A WAITRESS ASKED HIM TO GO TO "THE BUREAU." A SOVIET IN A BUSINESS SUIT TOLD HIM TO PAY FOR HIS MEAL, AFTER WHICH HE RETURNED TO THE BUREAU TO BE CONFRONTED BY THE SAME SOVIET AND A POLICE OFFICIAL. THE POLICEMAN "READ CHARGES" TO THE EFFECT THAT ANDERSON HAD BEHAVED IN A MANNER "UNBECOMING TO A TOURIST" OR "CONTRARY TO SOVIET RULES." (ANDERSON DID NOT SEEM TO CONFIDENTIAL

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UNDERSTAND THIS POINT FULLY.) ANDERSON ASKED FOR CLARIFICATION, BUT THE "CHARGES" WERE SIMPLY READ AGAIN. HE WAS THEN ESCORTED TO HIS ROOM, TOLD TO PACK AND TAKEN ON TO THE TRAIN STATION WHERE HE WAS TOLD TO BUY A TICKET AND BOARD A TRAIN LEAVING SHORTLY FOR BUCHAREST. (HE WAS, INCIDENTALLY TICKETED TO LEAVE THREE DAYS LATER, SEPTEMBER 5.)

5. AT THE BORDER CUSTOMS CHECK POINT, HIS THINGS WERE SEARCHED AND A COPY OF HEDVICK SMITH'S THE RUSSIANS WAS CONFISCATED AS WELL AS TWO PAGES TORN FROM HIS LAB BOOKS--THE PAGES CONTAINED SOUVENIR COMMENTS FROM SOVIET COLLEAGUES WITH WHOM HE HAD WORKED DURING THE RESEARCH PHASE OF HIS VISIT. HE ALSO BELIEVES HE WAS "ACCOMPANIED" ON THE TRAIN BY AN ENGLISH-SPEAKING SOVIET, WHO EMERGED FROM THE BACKGROUND AFTER PASSING CUSTOMS AND ENGAGED IN A SHORT CONVERSATION.

6. IN GENERAL ANDERSON SAYS HE HAD VERY LITTLE CONTACT WITH MOLDAVIAN CITIZENRY AND NEVER TRIED TO CONVINCE THEM OF ANYTHING. "WORST THING" HE CAN RECALL DOING WAS TO ASK AN INTOURIST OFFICIAL WHY MOLDAVIANS COULDN'T SHOP AT HARD

CURRENCY STORES. HE DID NOT REPORT HIS EXPULSION TO HEW OR STATE, BECAUSE HE THOUGHT IT OF LITTLE SIGNIFICANCE AND

ASSUMED (OR HOPED) IT WOULD SOON BE FORGOTTEN BY THE SOVIETS.

7. SUBSEQUENT TO HIS RETURN TO THE US HE HAS BEEN VISITED PROFESSIONALLY BY SOVIETS IN CONNECTION WITH CONTINUING WORK ON THE CARDIOVASCULAR PROJECT UNDER THE HEALTH AGREEMENT. ALL THE SOVIETS HAVE BEEN VERY FRIENDLY AND MANY HAVE "LOOKED FORWARD" TO SEEING HIM AGAIN IN THE USSR FOR FURTHER RESEARCH COLLABORATION. HE STILL HOPES TO GO BACK AND PLANS HAVE BEEN CONCLUDED FOR HIS RETURN TO THE USSR DURING 1978 WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK
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OF THE AGREEMENT AGAINST THIS BACKGROUND AND BECAUSE HE ASCRIBES THE INCIDENT TO "THE SOVIET SYSTEM" ANDERSON FEELS THE MATTER IS NOT WORTH PURSUING AND ASKED THAT NO COMPLAINT OR PROTEST BE MADE.

8. IN LIGHT OF FOREGOING AND ANDERSON'S SPECIFIC REQUEST, IN JUDGEMENT DEPARTMENT AND HEW MATTER SHOULD BE DROPPED PENDING FURTHER DEVELOPMENTS ON ANDERSON'S PROPOSED RETURN VISIT TO USSR. THERE APPEARS NO VIOLATION OF CONSULAR CONVENTION. LINKAGE IN NEWS ARTICLE TO HEALTH AGREEMENT IS OBVIOUSLY UNCALLED FOR, INDEED CONTRARY TO SOVIET INTERESTS IN SUPPORTING PRODUCTIVE HEALTH PROGRAM. EMBASSY MAY WISH TO MAKE LATTER POINT INFORMALLY TO APPROPRIATE SOVIET OFFICIALS, MORE IN SORROW THAN IN ANGER TO AVOID FURTHER PREJUDICING ANDERSON'S POSITION.
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